

Furthermore, the term "control step" especially takes the meaning of the main control steps of the boiler. In such a boiler, the control steps include combustion control, water level control, feed water flow control, chemical feed control and blow-down control. The most important of the control steps is the combustion control which includes the steps of pre-purge, ignition of the boiler, change of combustion quantity and fire extinction.

As is clear from the listing above and the listing in the specification, the control step refers to the main steps of each control and differs completely from the controls shown in the references cited by the Examiner. For these reasons, Applicants submit that the rejection over the **Summers et al.** reference is overcome and that the application should now be allowed.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, he is requested to contact Robert F. Gnuse, Reg. No. 27,295, at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By: _____

Michael K. Mutter

Reg. No. 29,680

P. O. Box 747

Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

MKM:RFG/mks